

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Chris Scrivens

**POSTLUDE:**

**“Good King Wenceslas”**

*arr. G. Young*

Vicki Kopacka, organ

*Thank you for exiting quietly.*

*\*Please rise in body or in Spirit.*

**Participating in today’s Worship and Fellowship are . . .**

Pastor:	The Reverend Christopher W. Scrivens
Lay Assistant:	Deacon Lisa Burns
Director of Family Ministries:	Elder Christy Hemmes
Music Director:	Matt Petrozelli
Guest Organist:	Vicki Kopacka
Instrumentalists:	Matt McConnell, Andy Smith, Jeff and Emily Moorhead
Ushers/Greeters:	Emily Meseck and Tom Perry

***Welcome to all this Christmas Eve. We extend a special welcome to our visitors  
and to those who are Home for the Christmas Holidays. May God bless you  
through the New Year.***



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**COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Chester, New Jersey 07930

The Rev. Christopher W. Scrivens, Pastor

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## ***Welcome to Community Presbyterian Church!***

**DECEMBER 24, 2025      CHRISTMAS EVE      5:30 p.m.**

***Welcome to this Sacred Time and Holy Place of Worship.***

**Quote for Meditation:** *“When I look at myself I do not see how I can be saved, but when I look at Christ I can not see how I can be lost.”* - Martin Luther

**GATHERING MUSIC:**      **“Silent Night”**      *arr. C. Davis*  
Vicki Kopacka, Piano

**“In the Moon of Wintertime”**      *arr. Moglebust*  
Jubilee Ringers

**“Still, Still, Still”**      *arr. J. Martin*  
Emily and Jeff Moorhead, Strings; Vicki Kopacka, piano

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory”**      *arr. M. Burkhart*  
Vicki Kopacka, organ

**GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE**      Deacon Lisa Burns

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Rev. Chris Scrivens

**PRELUDE:**      **“I Saw Three Ships ”**      *arr. J. Raney*  
Bells, Piano

### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: CHRIST CANDLE**      The Senior Choir

One: Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus.

It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

**All:** *We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.*

One: Rejoice, a Savior is born.

**All:** *A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!*

**\*CLOSING HYMN:      “JOY TO THE WORLD!”**

**1. Joy to the World! The Lord is come:**  
*Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room’  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

**2. Joy to the World! the Savior reigns:**  
*Let us our songs employ’  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,**  
*Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace,**  
*And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

## **“SILENT NIGHT”**

- 1. Silent Night, Holy Night!**  
*All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*
- 2. Silent Night, Holy Night!**  
*Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia”  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.*
- 3. Silent Night, Holy Night!**  
*Son of God, loves pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*
- 4. Silent Night, Holy Night!**  
*Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.*  
  
*Please gently blow out your candles before rising to  
sing Joy to the World.*

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Responsive**

Deacon Lisa Burns

One: Good and gracious God,  
on this holy night you gave us your Son,  
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.

All: *On this holy night  
draw us into the mystery of your love.  
Join our voices with the heavenly host  
that we may sing your glory on high.  
Give us a place among the shepherds  
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,  
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

## **\*OPENING HYMN: #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 3, 4)**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (In Unison)**

Deacon Lisa Burns

*Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong.  
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.*

*We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you.  
We have not followed Christ,  
we have ignored your teachings,  
we have lived lives of apathy against your love,  
we have built fences and fortresses to push people away,  
and we have silenced the screams of those in need.*

*Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us from our sin,  
Free us from our captivity,  
Free us to a life lived in Joy  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### **SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Chris Scrivens

**\*Sung response to Forgiveness: #144 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)**

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wiseman, I would do my part; yet what can I give him: give my heart.*

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

**First Testament:** Psalm 96 (OT pg. 520)

Deacon Lisa Burns

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20 (NT pg. 54)

Rev. Chris Scrivens

**CHRISTMAS REFLECTION:**

Rev. Chris Scrivens

**\*HYMN: #119**

**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Deacon Lisa Burns

**OFFERTORY:**

**“Sing of a Merry Christmas”**  
Senior Choir

*arr. J. Martin*

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION: #145 “What Child Is This” (vs. 3)**

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all, to own him,  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Deacon Lisa Burns

**PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Rev. Chris Scrivens

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever. Amen.*

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**Congregational Candle Lighting ~ Please remain seated during the lighting of the candles, and please remember that only unlit candles are turned sideways. Lighted candles are always held in an upright position. You may deposit your candles in the box at the back of the church as you leave. Thank you.**

*As the light of Christ passes through the congregation:*

**“O Holy Night”**

Andy Smith, wind synthesizer  
*into*

**\*HYMN: #122**

**“Silent Night” (printed page 6)**

**CLOSING HYMN: #134**

**“Joy to the World!” (printed page 7)**